



Propulsion professional receives environmental safety and health award

by Timothy Anderl, AFRL Headquarters

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, OHIO — Air Force Research Laboratory Vice Commander Col. James Heald recently recognized TSgt. John E. Titus, who works at the Propulsion Directorate at Edwards, AFB, Calif., with the AFRL Environmental Safety and Occupational Health (ESOH) Professional of the Year Award. Titus received the award at the AFRL ESOH Cross Training Workshop, which took place April 25-27 at Wright-Patterson AFB's Hope Hotel Conference Center.

The workshop was designed to evaluate the levels of ESOH involvement at each of the directorates and to bring professionals up to speed in all appropriate areas.

"Professionals in ESOH are responsible for making sure that our people and facilities are kept safe," Heald said. "They monitor the testing of the laboratory's technologies, prevent events like chemical spills and mitigate occupational health hazards like exposure to loud noises. Titus has been an integral part of making sure rocket tests are done safely."

Titus, who has been with the directorate since 1998, works in the Ground and Explosive Safety Programs area. These programs protect 244 government employees and 500 contractor personnel assigned to AFRL. In addition, he evaluates experimental research and development projects for safety controls and monitors test operations at 30 test facilities within the lab's 65 square mile unique rocket research facility.

Since coming to the directorate, TSgt. Titus has conducted numerous annual safety and executive management inspections at the Edwards site, which covers over 135 lab and engineering facilities.

Titus developed a tracking system for monitoring discrepancies on a monthly basis, which has been credited with encouraging managers to take action to correct safety deficiencies. The directorate saw a 64 percent drop in the number of ESOH problems in a four-month period, eliminating numerous safety hazards and potential injuries.

As a member of Safety Review Boards and Test Control Teams, Titus provided guidance to the hazard analysis process, which corrected and eliminated safety and explosive



FOR A JOB WELL DONE — Air Force Research Laboratory Vice Commander Col. James Heald (right) recognizes TSgt. John E. Titus, who works at the Propulsion Directorate at Edwards, AFB, Calif., with the AFRL Environmental Safety and Occupational Health (ESOH) Professional of the Year Award.

hazards for the Navy's Third Stage Rocket Motor and Rocket Stem Launch Program for the Minuteman II, Stage II rocket motor. He performed inspections on the rocket motors, validated crane operational procedures and corrected deficiencies in the countdown procedures, leading to successful test firings.

In addition, Titus teaches several safety training classes including: Newcomers Orientation; Supervisor Safety; Unit Environmental Safety and Occupation Health Representative; Confined Space; Lock-Out/Tag-Out; and Explosive training. According to the award nomination submitted by Col. Wesley Cox, "TSgt. Titus' outstanding depth and breadth of knowledge combined with superior public speaking presence make him a favorite AFRL instructor."

He uses closed circuit television, monthly bulletins and intranet web pages to distribute ESOH information and increase safety awareness throughout the directorate.

Titus is the first recipient of the AFRL ESOH Professional of the Year award. @